

Chapter PSC 134

STANDARDS FOR GAS SERVICE

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PSC 134.01 General. (1) Chapter PSC 134 of the public service commission's departmental rules is part of the Wis. Adm. Code and constitutes a general order of the public service commission, the issuance of which is authorized by ss. 227.014, 196.02, 196.06, 196.10, 196.12, 196.15, 196.16, 196.17, and 196.19, Stats.

(2) The rules making up ch. PSC 134 are designed to effectuate and implement ss. 196.02, 196.03, 196.06, 196.10, 196.12, 196.15, 196.16, 196.17, 196.19, 196.21, 196.22, 196.60, 196.62 and parts of other sections of the Wisconsin statutes.

(3) Nothing in this chapter of the Wisconsin Administrative Code shall preclude the commission's giving special and individual consideration to exceptional or unusual situations or, upon investigation of the facts and circumstances involved, adopting requirements as to individual utilities or services which may be lesser, greater, other than or different from those provided in these rules.

(4) The requirements of ch. PSC 134 shall be observed by all public utilities, both privately and publicly owned, engaged in the manufacture, mixing, purchasing, storage, transmission and/or distribution of gaseous fuel.

(5) The manner of enforcing the rules in ch. PSC 134 is prescribed in s. 196.66, Stats., and such other means as provided in statutory sections administered by the public service commission.

(6) In case of emergency, where public interest requires immediate action without waiting for compliance with the specific terms of these rules, immediate corrective action shall be taken by the utility, which

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action, however, shall be subject to review by the public service commission.

(7) Periodic reports to the public service commission are required by ss. PSC 134.14 (6); 134.17; 134.18 (3); 134.19 (3); 134.25 (4). Individual reports are required by PSC 134.18 (4) and (5).

History: 1-2-56; r. and recr. Register, February, 1959, No. 38, eff. 3-1-59; am. (6). Register, January, 1965, No. 109, eff. 2-1-65; renun. (3) to (6) to be (4) to (7), Register, November, 1980, No. 299, eff. 12-1-80.

PSC 134.02 Definitions. The following terms as used in this chapter mean:

(1) **APPLIANCE.** A gas appliance is any device which utilizes gas fuel to produce light, heat, or power.

(2) **COMPLAINT.** Complaint as used in this chapter is a statement or question by anyone, whether a utility customer or not, involving a wrong, grievance, injury, dissatisfaction, illegal action or procedure, dangerous condition or action, or utility obligation.

(3) **DEMAND.** Gas demand means the amount of gas required per unit of time, usually expressed in cubic feet, Btu, or therms per unit of time.

(4) **DRY GAS.** Dry gas as applied to gas usage means a gas having a moisture and hydrocarbon dew point below any normal temperature to which the gas piping is exposed. As applied to determination of heating value or specific gravity it means the complete absence of moisture or water vapor.

(5) **GAS.** Gas as used in this chapter is any gas or mixture of gases suitable for domestic or industrial fuel and transmitted or distributed to the user through a piping system. The common types are natural gas, manufactured gas, and liquefied petroleum gas distributed as a vapor with or without admixture of air.

(6) **HEATING AND CALORIFIC VALUES.** (a) *British thermal unit (Btu).* A British thermal unit is the quantity of heat that must be added to one avoirdupois pound of pure water to raise its temperature from 58.5°F to 59.5°F under standard pressure.

(b) *Dry calorific value.* The dry calorific value of a gas (total or net) is the value of the total or the net calorific value of the gas divided by the volume of dry gas in a standard cubic foot.

Note: The amount of dry gas in a standard cubic foot is .9826 cu. ft.

(c) *Net calorific value of a gas.* The net calorific value of a gas is the number of British thermal units evolved by the complete combustion, at constant pressure, of one standard cubic foot of gas with air, the temperature of the gas, air, and products of combustion being 60°F and all water formed by the combustion reaction remaining in the vapor state.

Note: The net calorific value of a gas is its total calorific value minus the latent heat of evaporation at standard temperature of the water formed by the combustion reaction.

(d) *Therm.* Therm means 100,000 British thermal units.

(e) *Total calorific value.* Total calorific value of a gas is the number of British thermal units evolved by the complete combustion, at constant pressure, of one standard cubic foot of gas with air, the temperature of Register, December, 1982, No. 324

the gas, air, and products of combustion being 60°F and all water formed by the combustion reaction condensed to the liquid state.

(7) **METER.** A meter is an instrument installed to measure the volume of gas delivered through it.

(8) **MUNICIPALITY.** A municipality is any town, city or village.

(9) **PRESSURE.** (a) *Pressure.* Pressure unless otherwise stated is expressed in pounds per square inch above atmospheric pressure, i.e. gauge pressure. (Abbreviation—psig).

(b) *Standard pressure.* See (11) (c) below.

(c) *Standard service pressure.* Standard service pressure is the gas pressure which a utility undertakes to maintain on the meters of all customers except the meters of customers utilizing high-pressure service.

(10) **PUBLIC UTILITY.** Public utility is defined in s. 196.01, Stats., and ch. PSC 134 applies to those supplying public utility gas service.

(11) **STANDARDS.** (a) *Specific gravity of a gas.* The specific gravity of a dry gas is the ratio of the molecular weight of the dry gas or gas mixture to the molecular weight of dry air. This is the dry specific gravity.

(b) *Standard cubic foot of gas.* A standard cubic foot of gas is the quantity of any gas that at standard temperature and under standard pressure will fill a space of 1 cu. ft. when in equilibrium with liquid water.

(Note: According to Dalton's Law, this is equivalent to stating that the partial pressure of the gas is: $30 - 0.622 = 29.478$ inches of mercury column).

(c) *Standard pressure.* Standard pressure is the absolute pressure of pure mercury 30 inches in height at 32°F and under standard gravity (Gravity 32.174 ft. per sec.). (Equivalent to 14.735 lbs. per sq. in.).

(d) *Standard temperature.* Standard temperature is 60°F based on the international temperature scale.

(12) **UNMEASURED GAS.** Unmeasured gas is gas which has not been measured by a meter.

History: 1-2-56; r. and recr. Register, February, 1959, No. 38, eff. 3-1-59.

PSC 134.03 Service. Every gas utility shall furnish reasonably adequate service and facilities at the rates filed with the commission and subject to these rules and the rules of the utility filed with this commission which are applicable thereto and not otherwise. The utility shall be operated in such manner as to obviate so far as reasonably practicable, undesirable effects upon the operation of standard services, standard utilization equipment, equipment of the utility, and upon the service and facilities of other utilities and agencies.

History: 1-2-56; r. and recr. Register, February, 1959, No. 38, eff. 3-1-59.

PSC 134.04 Schedules to be filed with commission. The schedules of rates and rules shall be filed with the commission by the utility and shall be classified, designated, arranged, and submitted so as to conform to the requirements of current tariff or rate schedule circulars and special instructions which have been and may from time to time be issued by the commission. Provisions of the schedules shall be definite and so

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stated as to minimize ambiguity or the possibility of misinterpretation, and shall include, together with such other information as may be deemed pertinent, the following:

(3) Forms of standard contracts required of customers for the various types of service available.

(4) If service to other utilities or municipalities for resale is furnished at a standard filed rate, either a copy of each contract or the standard contract form together with a summary of the provisions of each signed contract. The summary shall show the principal provisions of the contract and shall include the name and address of the customer, the points where gas is delivered, rate, term, minimums, load conditions, heating value of gas, pressures, and any special provisions such as rentals.

(5) Copies of special contracts for the purchase, sale, or interchange of gas.

(6) List of villages, cities, and unincorporated communities where urban rates are applicable, and towns in which service is furnished.

(7) Definitions of classes of customers.

(8) Extension rules for extending service to new customers indicating what portion of the extension or cost thereof will be furnished by the utility; and if the rule is based on cost, the items of cost included.

(9) Type of construction required of the customer if different from requirements in ch. PSC 135.

(10) Designation of such portion of the service facilities as the utility furnishes, owns, and maintains.

(11) Rules with which prospective customers must comply as a condition of receiving service, and the terms of contracts required.

(12) Rules governing the establishment of credit by customers for payment of service bills.

(13) Rules governing disconnecting and reconnecting service.

(14) Notice required from customer for having service discontinued.

(15) Rules covering temporary, emergency, auxiliary, and standby service.

(16) Rules covering the type of equipment which may or may not be connected.

(17) The list of service areas and the rates shall be filed in such form as to facilitate ready determination of the rates available in each municipality and in such unincorporated communities as have service at urban rates. If the utility has various rural rates, the areas where the same are available shall be indicated.

History: 1-2-58; r. and recr. Register, February, 1959, No. 38, eff. 3-1-59.

PSC 134.05 Information available to customers. (1) Each utility shall have available in its offices where payments are received, copies of its rates and rules applicable to the locality. The rates and rules shall be available for customer inspection and reasonable notice as to their availability shall be provided to customers.

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(2) Each gas utility, for every municipality in which it serves, shall provide in the respective telephone directories a telephone listing by which the utility can be notified during a 24-hour day of any utility service deficiency or emergency which may exist.

(3) Where a second language is common in a particular area served by the utility and so identified by the commission, all rules pertaining to billing and credit shall be available upon customer request for distribution in English and that second language in every business office of the utility in that area accessible to the public and where customer payments are received.

(4) Each utility shall provide written notice to its residential customers annually, and a written notice to all new residential customers, at a minimum, of the rules on deposits, payment options including deferred payment agreements and budget billing, disconnection and dispute procedures; of the availability of information on energy conservation practices, of the availability of a clear, concise record of the customer's actual natural gas consumption (or actual degree-day adjusted natural gas consumption) for each billing period during the prior 12 months or the actual number of months that the customer has lived at that location if less than 12 months, and of the availability of agencies or programs which may provide financial aid assistance or counseling; and contain a reply procedure to allow customers an opportunity to advise the utility of any special circumstances, such as the presence of infants or elderly persons or the use of human life sustaining equipment, and to advise the utility to contact a specific third party agency or individual prior to any disconnection action being taken.

History: 1-2-56; r. and recr. Register, February, 1959, No. 38, eff. 3-1-59; renun. PSC 134.05 to be PSC 134.05 (1); cr. (2), Register, January, 1965, No. 109, eff. 2-1-65; am. (1), renun. (2) to be (3) and cr. (2) and (4), Register, January, 1975, No. 229, eff. 2-1-75; am. Register, March, 1979, No. 279, eff. 4-1-79; am. (4), Register, October, 1980, No. 298, eff. 11-1-80.

PSC 134.061 Deposits. (1) **NEW RESIDENTIAL SERVICE.** A utility shall not require a cash deposit or other guarantee as a condition of new service unless a customer has an outstanding account balance with the utility which accrued within the last 6 years, and which at the time of the request for new service remains outstanding and not in dispute. (See s. PSC 134.064.)

(2) **EXISTING RESIDENTIAL SERVICE.** A utility shall not require a cash deposit or other guarantee as a condition of continued service unless either or both of the following circumstances apply:

(a) The utility has shut off or discontinued the service of the customer within the last 12-month period for violation of the utility's filed rules or for nonpayment of a delinquent service account not currently in dispute.

(b) Subsequent credit information indicates that the initial application for service was falsified or incomplete to the extent that a deposit would be required under this section.

(3) **NEW COMMERCIAL SERVICE.** (a) If the credit of an applicant for service has not been established satisfactorily to the utility, the applicant may be required to deposit a sum not exceeding the estimated gross bills for any 2 consecutive billing periods selected by the utility.

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(b) In determining whether an applicant for service has satisfactorily established its credit, the utility shall consider the following factors before requiring a security deposit.

1. Credit information from credit reporting services;
2. Letter of credit from a financial institution or another utility;
3. Applicant's business characteristics, such as type of business, length of time the applicant has operated, the applicant's business experience and knowledge, and estimated size of the applicant's bills.
4. Assets of the business;
5. The financial condition of the business, as indicated in a financial statement.

(c) The utility shall notify the applicant within 30 days of the request for service as to whether a deposit will be required. The 30-day period shall begin from the date the applicant provides all requested relevant information to the utility. If no request for a deposit is made within this period, no deposit shall be required, except under the provisions of sub.

(4) (a). If a request for a deposit is made, the applicant must be given at least 20 days to provide payment, or guarantee, or to establish an installment payment agreement.

(d) The deposit of a commercial customer shall be refunded after 24 consecutive months of prompt payment. Payment is considered prompt if made prior to notice of disconnection for nonpayment not in dispute.

(4) EXISTING COMMERCIAL SERVICE. An existing commercial customer may be required to furnish a deposit if the customer has not made prompt payment of all bills within the last 24 consecutive months.

(b) When the utility requests a deposit of an existing commercial customer, the customer shall have 20 days to provide the deposit, guarantee, or to establish an installment payment agreement.

(c) Refund of the deposit of an existing commercial customer shall be made in accordance with (3) (d).

(5) CONDITIONS OF DEPOSIT. The maximum deposit for a new commercial or residential account shall not exceed the highest estimated gross bill for any 2 consecutive billing periods selected by the utility.

The maximum deposit for an existing commercial or residential account shall not exceed the highest actual gross bill for any 2 consecutive months within the preceding 12 month review period as determined by the utility.

(6) INTEREST. Deposits for commercial or residential service shall bear interest of at least 8% payable from the date of deposit to the date of refund or discontinuance of service, whichever is earlier.

(7) REVIEW. The utility shall review the payment record of each residential utility customer with a deposit on file at 12-month intervals. The utility shall not require or continue to require a cash deposit unless a deposit is required under the provisions of sub. (2).

(8) REFUND. Any deposit or portion thereof refunded to a commercial or residential customer shall be refunded by check unless both the customer and the utility agree otherwise.
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tomer and the utility agree to a credit on the regular billing, or unless sub. (9) applies.

(9) **ACCRUED INTEREST.** Upon termination of commercial or residential service, the deposit, with accrued interest, shall be credited to the final bill and the balance shall be returned promptly to the customer.

(10) **WRITTEN EXPLANATION.** A utility shall not require any commercial or residential customer to pay a deposit or establish a guarantee in lieu of deposit without explaining, in writing if requested, why that deposit is being required.

(11) **REFUSAL OF SERVICE.** Commercial or residential service may be refused or disconnected for failure to pay a deposit request subject to the rules pertaining to disconnection and refusal of service. (s. PSC 134.062).

(12) **GUARANTEE TERMS AND CONDITIONS.** (a) The utility may accept, in lieu of cash deposit, a contract signed by a guarantor satisfactory to the utility whereby payment of a specified sum not exceeding the cash deposit requirement is guaranteed. The term of such contract shall be for no longer than 2 years, but shall automatically terminate after the commercial or residential customer has closed its account with the utility, or at the guarantor's request upon 30 days' written notice to the utility.

(b) Upon termination of a guarantee contract or whenever the utility deems same insufficient as to amount of surety, a cash deposit or a new or additional guarantee may be required upon reasonable 20-day written notice to the customer. The service of any customer who fails to comply with these requirements may be disconnected upon 8 days' written notice, subject to sub. (13) for a residential customer or the establishment of an installment payment agreement for a commercial customer.

(c) The utility shall mail the guarantor copies of all disconnect notices sent to the customer whose account he has guaranteed unless the guarantor waives such notice in writing.

(13) **DEFERRED PAYMENT.** (a) In lieu of cash deposit or guarantee, an applicant for new residential service who has an outstanding account accrued within the last 6 years with the same utility shall have the right to receive service from that utility under a deferred payment agreement as defined in s. PSC 134.063 for the outstanding account.

(b) A commercial customer or applicant for commercial service of which a deposit is requested shall have the right to receive service under an installment payment agreement.

(14) **APPLICABILITY.** The rules in subs. (12) and (13) of this section are not applicable to deposits or guarantees made in connection with the financing of extensions or other equipment.

History: Cr. Register, January, 1975, No. 229, eff. 2-1-75; am. Register, November, 1980, No. 299, eff. 12-1-80.

PSC 134.062 Disconnection and refusal of service. (1) (a) In no circumstances will the cumulative time before notice of disconnection be less than 20 days after the date of issuance of the bill and an account may be deemed delinquent for the purpose of disconnection after such period has elapsed.

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(b) At least 8 calendar days prior to disconnection, the utility shall give written disconnect notice upon a form which must be in the tariff of the utility filed with the public service commission and which conforms to the requirements of (8) unless excepted elsewhere.

(c) When a customer, either directly or through the public service commission, disputes a disconnection notice the utility shall investigate any disputed issue and shall attempt to resolve that issue by negotiation. During this investigation and negotiation, utility service shall not be disconnected over this matter.

(d) If a disputed issue cannot be resolved pursuant to s. PSC 134.064 (1), the utility shall inform the customer of the right to contact the public service commission.

(2) Utility service may be disconnected for any of the following reasons, provided that if the commission declares a winter emergency to be in effect, there must be reasonable grounds to believe that such disconnection will not, under the circumstances, endanger human health or life:

(a) Failure to pay a delinquent account or failure to comply with the terms of a deferred payment agreement (See s. PSC 134.063.).

(b) Violation of the utility's rules pertaining to the use of service in a manner which interferes with the service of others or to the operation of nonstandard equipment, if the customer has first been notified and provided with reasonable opportunity to remedy the situation.

(c) Failure to comply with deposit or guarantee arrangements as specified in s. PSC 134.061.

(d) Diversion of service around the meter.

(e) Connecting or having connected a natural gas outdoor lighting fixture as specified in PSC 136.02.

(f) Connecting or causing to be connected a device or use of gas considered to be a nonessential use of natural gas. This rule applies only to devices or purposes connected after the effective date of the rule as specified in PSC 136.05.

(g) Failure to comply with Wisconsin statute, commission rule, or order pertaining to conservation or availability of service.

(h) Refusal or failure to permit authorized utility personnel to read the meter at least once every 6 months in order to determine actual usage. The six-month period begins with the date of the last meter reading.

(3) A public utility may disconnect utility service without notice where a dangerous condition exists for as long as the condition exists.

(4) Service may be denied to any customer for failure to comply with applicable requirements of this section, or of the utility's rules, or if a dangerous or unsafe condition exists on the customer's premises.

(5) Utility service may not be disconnected or refused for any of the following reasons:

(a) Nonpayment of a delinquent account over 6 months old where collection efforts have not been made within that period of time unless Register, December, 1982, No. 324

the passage of additional time results from other provisions herein or from good faith negotiations or arrangements made with the customer.

(b) Delinquency in payment for service by a previous occupant of the premises to be served other than a member of the same household residing at the same premises.

(c) Failure to pay for merchandise or charges for non-utility service billed by the utility.

(d) Failure to pay for a different type or class of utility service.

(e) Failure to pay the account of another customer as guarantor thereof.

(f) Failure to pay charges arising from any underbilling occurring more than one year prior to the current billing and due to any misapplication of rates.

(g) Failure to pay charges arising from any underbilling occurring more than one year prior to the current billing and due to any faulty metering.

(h) Failure to pay an estimated bill other than a bill rendered pursuant to an approved bimonthly meter reading plan unless the customer upon request refuses to permit the reading of the meter during normal business hours.

(6) A utility shall not disconnect any residential service without notifying the county department of health and social services at least 5 calendar days prior to the scheduled disconnection, if the customer or responsible person has made a written request for this procedure to the utility. The customer shall be appraised of this right upon application for service.

(7) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, a utility may not disconnect service to a residential customer if disconnection will aggravate an existent medical emergency of the customer, a member of his family or other permanent resident of the premises where service is rendered and if the customer conforms to the procedure described in par. (a), below.

(a) A utility shall postpone the disconnection of service for 21 days to enable the customer to arrange for payment, if the customer produces a licensed Wisconsin physician's statement or notice from a public health or social services official which identifies the medical emergency and specifies the period of time during which disconnection will aggravate the circumstances. The postponement may be extended once by renewal of the certificate or notice. No further extension of time shall be granted except upon a showing by the customer of the existence of extraordinary circumstances and further that he has exercised due diligence in meeting the emergency as evidenced in part by close and continuous communication with the utility.

(b) During the period service is continued under the provisions of this subsection, the customer shall be responsible for the cost of residential utility service. However, no action to disconnect that service will be undertaken until expiration of the period of continued service.

(c) If there is a dispute concerning an alleged existent medical emergency, either party shall have the right to an informal review by the public service commission staff. Pending a decision after informal review, residential utility service shall be continued provided that the resident has submitted a statement or notice as set forth in par. (a) of this subsection.

(8) (a) A utility shall not disconnect service unless written notice by first class mail is sent to the customer or personally served at least 8 calendar days prior to the first date of the proposed disconnection. Notice shall be sent to the account name and address, and to the address where service is provided, if different. If disconnection is not accomplished on or before the 15th day after the first notice date, a subsequent notice must be left on the premises not less than 24 hours nor more than 48 hours prior to disconnection.

(b) The utility shall make a reasonable effort to have a personal or telephone contact with the customer prior to disconnection.

(c) Disconnection notice shall be given upon a form approved by the commission, and shall contain the following information:

1. The name and address of the customer and the address of service, if different.

2. A statement of the reason(s) for the proposed disconnection of service and that disconnection will occur if the account is not paid, or if arrangement is not made to pay the account under deferred payment agreement, or if other suitable arrangements are not made, or if equipment changes are not made. If disconnection of service is to be made for default on a deferred payment agreement, the notice shall include an explanation of the acts of the customer which are considered to constitute default.

3. A statement that the customer should communicate immediately upon receipt of the notice with the utility's designated office, listing a telephone number, if he disputes the notice of delinquent account, if he wishes to negotiate a deferred payment agreement as an alternative to disconnection, if any resident is seriously ill, or if there are other extenuating circumstances.

4. A statement that residential utility service will be continued for up to 21 days during serious illness if the account holder submits a statement or notice pursuant to (7).

5. A statement that the customer may appeal to the public service commission staff in the event that the grounds for the proposed disconnection or the amount of any disagreement remains in dispute after the customer has pursued the available remedies with the utility.

(9) (a) Service shall not be disconnected on a day, or on a day immediately preceding a day, when the business offices of the utility are not available to the public for the purpose of transacting all business matters unless the utility provides personnel which are readily available to the customer 24 hours per day to evaluate, negotiate or otherwise consider the customer's objection to the disconnection as provided under s. PSC 134.064 and proper service personnel are readily available to restore service 24 hours per day.

(b) If a residential service which has been disconnected has not been restored to service within 24 hours after the time of the disconnection, the utility shall inform the local law enforcement department of the billing name and the service address and that a threat to health and life might exist to persons occupying the premises.

History: Cr. Register, January, 1975, No. 229, eff. 2-1-75; am. (1) (a) and (5) (a), Register, December, 1975, No. 240, eff. 1-1-76; am. (2) (intro.), Register, March, 1979, No. 279, eff. 4-1-79; emerg. cr. (2) (g), eff. 1-26-80; cr. (2) (f), Register, January, 1980, No. 289, eff. 2-1-80; cr. (2) (e), Register, February, 1980, No. 290, eff. 3-1-80; cr. (2) (g), Register, July, 1980, No. 295, eff. 8-1-80; emerg. cr. (10), eff. 12-17-81; cr. (2) (h), Register, September, 1982, No. 321, eff. 10-1-82.

PSC 134.063 Deferred payment agreement. The utility is required to offer deferred payment agreements only to residential accounts.

(1) Every deferred payment agreement entered into due to the customer's inability to pay the outstanding bill in full shall provide that service will not be discontinued if the customer pays a reasonable amount of the outstanding bill and agrees to pay a reasonable portion of the remaining outstanding balance in installments until the bill is paid.

(2) For purposes of determining reasonableness under these rules the parties shall consider the:

- (a) Size of the delinquent account.
- (b) Customer's ability to pay.
- (c) Customer's payment history.
- (d) Time that the debt has been outstanding.
- (e) Reasons why the debt has been outstanding.
- (f) Any other relevant factors concerning the circumstances of the customer.

(3) A deferred payment agreement offered by a utility shall state immediately preceding the space provided for the customer's signature and in bold face print at least 2 type sizes larger than any other used thereon, that "IF YOU ARE NOT SATISFIED WITH THIS AGREEMENT, DO NOT SIGN. YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO MAKE A COUNTER OFFER AND, IF IT IS REJECTED, YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO APPEAL THIS PROPOSED AGREEMENT TO THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF WISCONSIN, DURING WHICH TIME THE UTILITY MAY NOT DISCONNECT YOUR SERVICE. THIS DOES NOT RELIEVE YOU FROM THE OBLIGATION TO PAY BILLS THAT ARE INCURRED AFTER COMMENCEMENT OF DISPUTE PROCEDURES. IF YOU DO SIGN THIS AGREEMENT YOU GIVE UP YOUR RIGHT TO DISPUTE THE AMOUNT DUE UNDER THE AGREEMENT EXCEPT FOR THE UTILITY'S FAILURE OR REFUSAL TO FOLLOW THE TERMS OF THIS AGREEMENT."

(4) A deferred payment agreement shall not include a finance charge.

(5) If an applicant for utility service has not fulfilled terms of a deferred payment agreement, the utility shall have the right to disconnect pursuant to disconnection of service rules (PSC 134.062) and under such circumstances, it shall not be required to offer subsequent negotiation of a deferred payment agreement prior to disconnection.

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(6) Payments made by a customer in compliance with a deferred payment agreement, shall be first considered made in payment of the previous account balance with any remainder credited to the current bill.

(7) If a deferred payment agreement cannot be reached, and if the customer's proposed deferred payment agreement is unacceptable to the utility, the utility shall inform the customer in writing why the customer's offer was not acceptable.

History: Emerg. cr. eff. 1-21-75; cr. Register, January, 1975, No. 229, eff. 2-1-75; am., Register, March, 1979, No. 279, eff. 4-1-79.

PSC 134.064 Dispute procedures. (1) Whenever the customer disputes the utility's request for a deposit or other guarantee, or advises the utility's designated office that all or any part of any billing as rendered is in dispute, or that any matter related to the disconnection or refusal of service is in dispute, the utility shall:

(a) Investigate the dispute promptly and completely.

(b) Advise the customer of the results of the investigation.

(c) Attempt to resolve the dispute.

(d) Provide the opportunity for the customer to enter into a deferred payment agreement when applicable in order to settle the dispute.

(2) After the customer has pursued the available remedies with the utility, he may request that the public service commission staff informally review the disputed issue and recommend terms of settlement.

(a) A request for informal review may be made in any reasonable manner such as by written notice or telephone request directed to the public service commission. By telephone or written notice the public service commission staff may request the utility to investigate the dispute.

(b) There must be at least 5 days between the date the commission staff telephones or mails written notice of terms of settlement after informal review, and any subsequent disconnection.

(3) Any party to the dispute after informal review may make a written request for a formal review by the commission. Such request must be made within 5 days of the date the commission staff telephones or mails written notice of terms of settlement after informal review. If written confirmation of the staff telephone notice is requested and mailed, the 5 day period begins from the date of that mailing.

(a) Within 10 days from the time such a request is made, the commission shall decide on the basis of the information it has received from the staff whether to hold a hearing on the matter and shall inform both parties of its decision.

(b) If the commission decides to conduct formal hearing on the dispute, the customer shall be required to pay 50% of the bill or deposit in dispute to the utility or post bond for that amount on or before date of hearing. Such payment or bond may be waived by the commission for good cause shown. Failure to pay the specified amount before hearing will constitute waiver by the customer.

(c) Such a hearing shall conform to the procedures described in ss. 196.26 to 196.34, Stats.

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(d) Any such hearing shall be held not less than 10 days following a notice of hearing and a decision thereon shall be rendered following the conclusion of the hearing.

(4) Utility service shall not be disconnected or refused because of any disputed matter while the disputed matter is being pursued in accordance with the provisions of this section. In no way does this relieve the customer from obligation of paying charges which are not in dispute.

History: Emerg. cr. eff. 1-21-75; cr. Register, January, 1975, No. 229, eff. 2-1-75; am. (1), (3) (b) and (4), Register, December, 1975, No. 240, eff. 1-1-76; am. (1) (intro.), Register, March, 1979, No. 279, eff. 4-1-79; emerg. am. (2) (a) and (b) and (3), eff. 12-17-81; am. (2) (a) and (b) and (3), Register, July, 1982, No. 319, eff. 8-1-82.

PSC 134.10 Service on customer's premises. (1) All changes in the heating value standard, all changes in pressure and specific gravity greater than the allowable variation, and changes in the composition of the gas which would materially affect the operation of the customer's appliances must be accompanied by a general inspection and adjustment of all appliances that would be affected by the changes. The utility shall make such adjustments and such changes to all customers' appliances that are connected to an interior piping system at the time of the change as may be necessary in order that the appliance may operate as efficiently and give as good service as was possible before the change. This should be done promptly and without cost or unnecessary inconvenience to the customer.

(2) If in connection with a service change specified in (1) above, a piece of properly operating utilization equipment cannot be adjusted so that it will operate satisfactorily and if it must be replaced in its entirety the utility shall share equitably in the cost of changing the equipment. The change in customer's equipment should be made with the greatest possible economy to the customer, and final settlement made at the time of the change. A satisfactory settlement would be payment by the utility to the customer of the remaining value of the customer's equipment and the cost of removing the old and installing in the same position substantially equal equipment which replaces it.

(3) (a) Each utility shall adopt and file with this commission a policy for inspection of customer's appliances. The filed rule need not include the inspection and adjustment of special industrial equipment, which should be checked by persons more familiar with the equipment. The filed rule shall provide that customers having such equipment are to be notified.

(b) Each gas utility shall establish an educational and inspection program designed to inform customers and assist the general public in the proper and efficient operation and maintenance of gas burning equipment. Such program shall advise customers to have heating equipment checked annually and offer energy saving suggestions to customers.

(c) Whenever a gas utility is required to enter a customer's premises to re-establish service to relight appliances due to a non-emergency interruption of service, an inspection of the burner ignition and flame appearance shall be made on each appliance which is relit to check for safety and efficient operation. The utility will be prepared to advise the customer relative to the safety and efficiency of connected appliances.

History: 1-2-56; r. and recr. Register, February, 1959, No. 38, eff. 3-1-59; am. (3), Register, March, 1977, No. 265, eff. 4-1-77.

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PSC 134.11 Meters and control equipment. (1) Where possible to do so, all gas quantities required to be reported to the commission shall be metered.

(2) All gas sold to customers shall be measured by commercially acceptable measuring devices owned and maintained by the utility. The maintenance of the accuracy of the meters shall be the responsibility of the utility.

(3) Every reasonable effort shall be made to measure at one meter location all gas quantities necessary for billing the customer.

(4) All gas customers of the same type, pressure, and/or volume classification shall have their gas metered with instruments having like characteristics and at the same pressure base, except that the commission may approve the use of instruments of different types if their use does not result in unreasonable discrimination.

(5) Any regulators or equipment used to provide service in accordance with commission or filed utility rules and rates shall be commercially acceptable devices owned and maintained by the utility.

(6) A temperature-compensating meter shall be used whenever a gas meter is subject to the elements of the weather or wide variations in temperature. All present non-compensating installations subject to the elements of the weather and wide variations in temperature shall be changed so that 100% compliance will be attained by the end of the first complete testing cycle as provided in s. PSC 134.30 (1).

History: 1-2-56; r. and recr. Register, February, 1959, No. 38, eff. 3-1-59; cr. (6), Register, January, 1965, No. 109, eff. 2-1-65.

PSC 134.12 Meter readings and billing periods. Reading of all meters used for determining charges to customers shall be scheduled monthly, bimonthly, quarterly, or semi-annually. An effort shall be made to read meters on corresponding days of each meter-reading period. The meter-reading date may be advanced or postponed not more than 5 days without adjustment of the billing for the period. Bills for service shall be rendered within 40 days from the reading of the meter except as may be otherwise specifically authorized by the commission. The utility may permit the customer to supply the meter readings on a form supplied by the utility, provided a utility representative reads the meter at least once each 6 months and when there is a change of customer. The utility shall make reasonable efforts to read the meters of customers who cannot be available during normal business hours.

History: 1-2-56; r. and recr. Register, February, 1959, No. 38, eff. 3-1-59; am. Register, September, 1982, No. 321, eff. 10-1-82.

PSC 134.13 Billing. (1) (a) Each bill including the customer's receipt, provided by the following investor-owned utilities:

Lake Superior District Power Company

Madison Gas and Electric Company

Northern States Power Company

Superior Water, Light and Power Company

Wisconsin Fuel and Light Company

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Wisconsin Gas Company

Wisconsin Natural Gas Company

Wisconsin Southern Gas Company

Wisconsin Power and Light Company

Wisconsin Public Service Corporation

shall show for each meter the following information:

1. The customer name, billing address and service address (if different from the billing address).
2. For residential customers in multi-unit buildings, current meter identification information or number and account number.
3. The present and last preceding meter readings.
4. The present and last preceding meter reading dates.
5. The next scheduled meter reading date.
6. The number of days in the billing period.
7. The number of units consumed.
8. The class of service with clear explanation of codes and abbreviations.
9. The rate schedule under which the bill is calculated including the itemized calculations of the rate schedule component including, but not limited to, such items as customer charge, energy blocks, demand charges, minimum bills and all other billing factors necessary for the customer to check the calculation of the bill.
10. Clear itemized adjustment clause bill calculation.
11. Amount subject to tax, tax rate, and tax billed.
12. Clear itemization of the amount of the bill for the present billing period, any unpaid balance from previous billing periods and any late payment charges.
13. Clear itemization of other utility charges and credits.
14. A statement will be printed on each bill indicating to the customer that the utility will, upon customer request, provide the information and assistance necessary for the customer to evaluate fuel consumption and conservation. Upon receiving such request, the utility shall provide consumption and degree day information by billing periods for at least the last year and information and instructions needed by the customer to make consumption comparisons and evaluate his or her conservation efforts. In order to assist customers in their conservation monitoring, the utility will provide degree day information with each monthly bill.
15. Bills rendered without an actual meter reading shall be specifically marked as estimated.

16. Each utility subject to the rules in (1) (a) will file a plan for implementation as soon as possible and no later than 60 days from date of

publication. The plans shall include a list of uniform bill codes developed by the utilities, to be approved by the commission.

(b) Each bill including the customer's receipt rendered by gas utilities not included in par. (a), shall show the present and last preceding meter readings, the date of the present reading, the number of units consumed, the class of service if other than residential, and the rate schedule under which the bill is calculated. In lieu of including the rate schedule on the bill the utility may, whenever a rate change becomes effective and at least twice a year, supply each customer with the schedule of rates at which the bills are calculated and any other rates that might be applicable. Bills rendered at rates requiring the measurement of a number of different factors shall show all data necessary for the customer to check the calculation of the bill. All monthly adjustment clause factors necessary for a customer to check the calculation of the bill shall be included on the monthly bill. Minimum and estimated bills shall be distinctly marked as such. Estimated bills are bills rendered without actual meter readings.

(c) Merchandise and service repair work charges shall not be included on utility service bills.

(d) The utility may include on the utility service bill charges to the customer resulting from other services, materials or work provided by the utility as a result of commission-approved conservation and alternative energy programs. The charges shall be listed individually on the bill and the customer shall be permitted to include such payment in his or her payment for gas utility service. Any partial payments will be applied first to the amount due for utility service and the remainder to the other charges.

(e) The commission may authorize the utility to make late payment charges to a customer's utility service bill that is not paid in full within 20 days following issuance of the bill. The late payment charge may be either a one-time charge as provided in par. (f) or a monthly charge as provided in par. (g). The utility shall receive approval from the commission of the method it desires to use and shall not change methods without commission approval.

(f) If the utility is authorized to make a one-time late payment charge, such charge shall comply with the following requirements:

1. The bill shall clearly indicate the amount of the late payment charge and the date after which the late payment charge shall be applied.

2. Late payment charges shall be applied no sooner than 20 days after the date of issuance of the bill.

3. The amount of the late payment charge shall be 3% of the bill, except a minimum charge of 30¢ shall apply.

4. Late payment charges shall be applied to all customer classes and rate classifications.

5. The utility shall not waive any properly applied late payment charges.

6. A late payment shall be applied only once to any given amount outstanding.

(g) If the utility is authorized to make monthly late payment charges, such charges shall comply with the following requirements:

1. The amount of the charge shall be no more than 1-½% per month and shall be filed with and approved by the commission before it can be applied.

2. The late payment charge shall be applied to the total unpaid balance for utility service, including unpaid late payment charges.

3. The late payment charge shall be applied no sooner than 20 days after the date of issuance of the bill.

4. The late payment charge shall be applied to all customer classes and rate classifications.

5. If a customer disputes a bill for utility service or portion thereof and does not pay the disputed bill in full within 20 days following issuance of the bill, the late payment charge shall be applied only to that portion of the disputed bill later found to be correct and payable to the utility.

6. The utility may not waive any properly applied late payment charge.

7. No additional late payment charge may be applied to a delinquent account for utility service after the date on which the delinquent account was written off by the utility as uncollectable.

8. If a utility changes the type of late payment charge or initiates a late payment charge, the new charge shall apply only to utility service provided after the effective date of the change or initiation.

(2) (a) If the billing period is longer or shorter than allowed in s. PSC 134.12, the bill shall be prorated on a daily basis unless other provision is made in the utility's filed rules.

(b) If the utility cannot read the meter at the end of each billing period, or if the customer requests it, the utility shall leave meter-reading forms at the premises for completion by the customer. If no form is left or the form is not returned in time for the billing operation, a minimum or estimated bill may be rendered. In cases of emergency, the utility may render minimum or estimated (average) bills without reading meters or supplying meter-reading forms to customers. Only in unusual cases or when approval is obtained from the customer shall more than 3 consecutive estimated bills be rendered.

(c) If meter reading is not scheduled on a monthly basis, the utility shall supply customers with meter-reading forms for the periods when the meter is not scheduled to be read by the utility. Customers shall not be required to provide these meter readings. If the customer informs the utility he or she does not desire to supply a reading or if the form is not returned in time for the billing operation, a minimum or estimated bill may be rendered.

(d) When an actual meter reading indicates that a previous estimated bill was abnormally high or low the utility shall calculate the bill for the entire period as if use of service was normally distributed throughout the

period. The previous estimated charge shall be deducted from the re-computed total. If there is evidence to indicate that actual use was not uniform throughout the period, the billing shall be adjusted according to available information.

(3) (a) Credits due a customer because of meter inaccuracies, errors in billing, or misapplication of rates shall be shown separately and identified.

(b) The original billing rendered because of meter inaccuracy, or errors in billing, shall be separated from the regular bill and the charges explained in detail.

(4) Each bill for service shall be computed at the proper filed rate and the rate used shall be the cheapest applicable rate based on 12 months' use of service. If the customer's use is such that it is difficult to be certain what rate should be applied until there has been 12 months' use, the billing shall be adjusted on the first bill following the end of the 12 month use period.

(a) This rule does not prohibit contracts having terms longer than 1 year but does require that the rates paid under such contracts be the utility's lowest applicable rates on file with the commission.

(b) Where a customer is eligible to take service under more than one rate schedule the utility shall inform the customer how to select the rate that results in the lowest cost of service, based on 12 months' service and on the information at hand.

(c) The customer shall be informed of the selection of a rate every 12 months, whenever there is a change in rates that would affect the customer and at any other time the customer so requests.

(d) Subsection (4) (a), (b) and (c) applies to service as it is being supplied. If the customer could reduce his or her bills by installing equipment, combining or separating services, he or she should be notified, but no change in rates shall be made until the customer makes the necessary changes.

(5) All utilities listed in (1) (a) shall bill on a "therm" basis. Other utilities may base their rates on either a volumetric basis or a "therm" basis but permission must be obtained from this commission to change any rate from one method to another. The unit of service on a volumetric basis shall be the cubic foot. If the volume billed is at a different pressure and/or temperature base than the registered volume, the rate shall specify the billing pressure and temperature. The "therm" billing unit shall be 100,000-British thermal units of total dry heating value. Where therm billing is used, the heating value shall be the average for the billing period or a filed lesser amount. Adjustment of volumes or therms billed shall not be made because of the delivery of standby or peak shaving gas without commission approval.

(6) Each utility shall offer a budget payment plan to all prospective and existing residential customers and to all commercial accounts for which the primary purpose of the service is to provide for residential living, subject to the following minimum requirements.

(a) A budget payment plan tariff shall be on file with the public service commission, applicable only to charges for utility services under PSC jurisdiction.

(b) A budget payment plan may be established at any time of the year. The budget amount shall be calculated on the basis of the estimated consumption and estimated applicable rates through the end of the budget year. If the budget year is a fixed year, then prospective and existing customers requesting a budget payment plan after the start of the fixed year will have their initial monthly budget amount determined on the basis of the number of months remaining in the current budget year.

(c) An applicant for a budget plan shall be informed at the time of application and an existing budget plan customer on at least a quarterly basis, that budget amounts shall be reviewed and changed every 6 months if necessary, in order to reflect current circumstances. Adjustments to the budget amount shall be made with the objective that the customer's underbilled or overbilled balance at the end of the budget year shall be less than one month's budget amount.

(d) Customers on the budget payment plan shall be notified of adjustments by means of a bill insert, a message printed on the bill itself, or both. When an adjustment is made to a budget payment amount, the customer shall be adequately informed of the adjustment at the same time the bill containing the adjustment is rendered.

(e) Customers who have arrearages shall be allowed to establish a budget payment plan by signing a deferred payment agreement for the arrears, according to the provisions of s. PSC 134.063.

Note: Provisions of PSC 134.13 (6) (e) have been incorporated into PSC 134.13 (6) (c) and (d).

(f) Budget payment plans shall be subject to the late payment charge provisions of sub. (1) (f) and (g). In addition, if a budget payment is not paid the customer shall be appropriately notified with the next billing. If proper payment is not received subsequent to this notification, the next regular billing may effectuate the removal of the customer from the budget payment plan and reflect the appropriate amount due.

(g) At the end of a budget year, if an underbilled or overbilled balance exists in the account, the balance shall be handled as follows:

1. A customer's debit balance will be paid in full or, at the customer's option, on a deferred basis.

2. A customer's credit balance will be applied against the customer's account or, at the customer's option, a refund shall be made.

History: 1-2-56; r. and recr. Register, February, 1959, No. 38, eff. 3-1-59; am. (6), Register, January, 1965, No. 109, eff. 2-1-65; r. and recr. (1), Register, August, 1976, No. 248, eff. 9-1-76; am. Register, March, 1979, No. 279, eff. 4-1-79; am. (1) and (6), Register, October, 1980, No. 298, eff. 11-1-80; am. (6), Register, November, 1980, No. 299, eff. 12-1-80; renum. (1) (d) to be (1) (f) and am. (intro.), cr. (1) (d), (e) and (g) and am. (6) (f), Register, September, 1981, No. 309, eff. 10-1-81.

PSC 134.14 Adjustment of bills. (1) Whenever a meter is found to have an error of more than 3% fast as determined in the manner specified in s. PSC 134.28 under any load condition, a recalculation of bills for service shall be made for the period of inaccuracy assuming an inaccu-

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racy equal to the maximum fast percentage. The recalculation shall be made on the basis that the service meter should be 100% accurate.

(2) If the period of inaccuracy cannot be determined, it shall be assumed that the full amount of inaccuracy existed during the last half of the period since the previous test was made on the meter; however, the period of accuracy shall not exceed one-half the required test period.

(3) If the average gas bill of a customer does not exceed \$10 per month over the refund period the monthly consumption of which the refund is calculated may be averaged.

(4) If the recalculated bills indicate that more than \$1 is due an existing customer or \$2 is due a person no longer a customer of the utility, the full amount of the calculated difference between the amount paid and the recalculated amount shall be refunded to the customer. The refund to an existing customer may be in cash or as credit on a bill. If a refund is due a person no longer a customer of the utility, a notice shall be mailed to the last known address, and the utility shall upon request made within 3 months thereafter refund the amount due.

(5) Whenever a meter is found to be more than 3% slow on any test load, the utility may bill the customer for the amount the test indicates has been undercharged for the period of inaccuracy which period shall not exceed the last 6 months the meter was in service unless otherwise ordered by the commission after investigation. No back billing will be sanctioned if the customer has called to the company's attention his doubts as to the meter's accuracy and the company has failed within a reasonable time to check it.

(6) A classified record shall be kept of the number and amount of refunds and charges made because of inaccurate meters, misapplication of rates, and erroneous billing. A summary of the record for the previous calendar year shall be submitted to the commission by April 1 of each year.

History: Cr. Register, 1-2-56; r. and recr. Register, February, 1959, No. 38, eff. 3-1-59.

PSC 134.15 Employees authorized to enter customers' premises. The utility shall keep a record of employees authorized pursuant to s. 196.171, Stats., to enter customers' premises.

History: Cr. Register, February, 1959, No. 38, eff. 3-1-59.

PSC 134.16 Maps and diagrams. Each utility shall have maps, records, diagrams, and drawings showing the location of its property, in sufficient detail so that the adequacy of service to existing customers may be checked and facilities located.

History: Cr. Register, February, 1959, No. 38, eff. 3-1-59.

PSC 134.17 Complaints. Each utility shall investigate and keep a record of complaints received by it from its customers in regard to safety, service, or rates, and the operation of its system. The record shall show the name and address of the complainant, the date and nature of the complaint, and its disposition and the date thereof. A summary of this record for the previous calendar year shall be sent to the commission. Register, December, 1982, No. 324

sion by April 1 of each year. Each utility also shall document all contacts and actions relative to deferred payment arrangements and disputes.

History: Cr. Register, February, 1959, No. 38, eff. 3-1-59; am. Register, March, 1979, No. 279, eff. 4-1-79.

PSC 134.18 Record of interruption of service. (1) Each utility shall keep a record of all interruptions to service affecting an entire distribution system of any urban area or an important division of a community. The record shall show the date and time of interruption, the cause, the approximate number of customers affected, and the date and time of restoring service.

(2) Each utility shall keep a record of all failures and notifications of difficulty with transmitted gas supply affecting each gate station. The record shall show the date and time of failure or notification, the date and time of resumption of normal supply, the operation of standby equipment including amount of gas produced, the number of customers whose service was interrupted and the maximum and minimum gas supply pressure during the period of difficulty.

(3) A summary of records required by subs. (1) and (2) shall be sent to the public service commission by April 1 of each year.

(4) Each interruption of service which affects more than 100 customers shall be reported by mail, telephone, or telegraph to the commission within 48 hours following the discovery of the interruption.

(5) Any interruption of a principal gas supply shall be immediately reported to the commission by telephone or telegraph by the utility or utilities affected.

History: Cr. Register, February, 1959, No. 38, eff. 3-1-59.

PSC 134.19 Meter records and reports. (1) Whenever a gas meter is tested, such record shall be kept until that meter is tested again. This record shall indicate the information that is necessary for identifying the meter, the reason for making the test, the reading of the meter before it was removed from service, the accuracy of measurement, and all the data that were taken at the time of the test. This record must be sufficiently complete to permit convenient checking of the methods and calculations that have been employed.

(2) Another record shall be kept which indicates when the meter was purchased, its size, its identification, its various places of installation, with dates of installation and removal, the dates and results of all tests, and the dates and details of all repairs. The record shall be arranged in such a way that the record for any meter can be readily located.

(3) All utilities shall keep an "as found" high and light load test summary of all meters tested after being in service. This summary shall be made on a calendar year basis and forwarded to this commission by April 1 of the following year. This summary shall be divided according to the length of time since the last test, and meters found within each of the following per cent accuracy classifications:

(a) Over 115; 110.1-115; 105.1-110; 103.1-105; 102.1-103; 101.1-102; 100.1-101; 100; 99-99.9; 98-98.9; 97-97.9; 95-96.9; 90-94.9; 85-89.9; under 85; passing gas does not register; does not pass gas; not tested; grand

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total average % error of fast meters; average % error of slow meters; total average error; number tested, number in service.

History: Cr. Register, February, 1959, No. 38, eff. 3-1-59.

PSC 134.20 Preservation of records. The following records shall be preserved and kept available for inspection by the commission for the periods indicated. The list is not to be taken as comprehending all types of utility records.

Description of Record	Period to be Retained
(1) Maps showing the location and physical characteristics of existing plants	Currently
(2) Engineering records in connection with construction projects	Permanently
(3) Supply records: Station and system supply records All other records taken in the plant	Permanently 6 years
(4) Operating records: Load dispatcher data ----- Interruption records ----- Meter test ----- Meter history records ----- Annual meter accuracy summary ----- Heating value records ----- Pressure records ----- Specific gravity records ----- All other records of operation -----	6 years 6 years See PSC 134.19 Life of meter 20 years 6 years 6 years 6 years 6 years
(5) Equipment record: Must be placed in mortality study before destroying -----	Life of equipment
(6) Customers' records: Inspection of customers' equipment ----- Complaint record ----- Meter reading sheets or cards ----- Billing record ----- Customer deposits -----	10 years 6 years * years * years 6 years after refund
(7) Filed rates and rules -----	Permanently

Note: See Federal Power Commission Orders 54 and 156 for preservation of records. Public Service Commission's Classification of Accounts, and s. 18.01, Stats.

* Where machine billing is used and meter readings recorded on tabulating cards, the register sheets may be considered the "meter reading sheets" and the "billing records." "Meter reading sheets" and "billing records" or the "register sheets" shall be kept 6 years or until they are no longer needed to adjust bills. This means that the records must be kept 6 years or from the date of one meter test to the next, whichever is longer.

History: Cr. Register, February, 1959, No. 38, eff. 3-1-59.

PSC 134.21 Heating values and specific gravity. (1) Each utility which is furnishing gas service shall have on file with this commission for each municipality served the heating value, specific gravity, and composition of each type of gas regularly supplied and also for the gas which may be used for standby purposes and the range of values for peak shaving. The heating value filed shall be the total heating value with the Register, December, 1982, No. 324

indication whether it is on a wet or dry basis. (See definitions in s. PSC 134.02).

(2) All gases whether the regular gas supply, a mixture of gases or a substitute gas used for peak shaving purposes shall operate properly in normal gas utilization equipment. Where used for emergency or standby, the gas shall operate reasonably well in such equipment. (The customer requiring gas of a particular chemical composition shall make such arrangements as may be required to protect against damage by reason of change in composition).

(3) The monthly average heating value of the gases as delivered to the customers in any service area shall not be less than the heating value standard on file with this commission and the heating value at any time at constant specific gravity shall not be more than 5% above or 4% below this standard. At constant heating value, the specific gravity of the gas shall not vary more than 10% from the standards filed with the commission. If the heating value is varied by a greater amount than specified, the specific gravity shall be varied in such a way that the gas will operate satisfactorily in the customer's utilization equipment. Customers using processes that may be affected by a change in the chemical composition of the gas shall be notified of changes. Agreements with such customers shall specify the allowable variation in composition.

(4) For required periodic heating value tests see s. PSC 134.25. The specific gravity of the gas shall be determined at least once each month when there is no change in the type or sources of gas and when there is a change in the type of gas. Whenever emergency or peak shaving plants are ran or when mixed gases are used, daily determinations of specific gravity shall be made.

History: Cr. Register, February, 1959, No. 38, eff. 3-1-59.

PSC 134.22 Purity of gas. (1) In no case shall gas contain more than 30 grains of sulphur per 100 standard cubic feet, 5 grains of ammonia per 100 standard cubic feet, nor more than 0.1 grain of hydrogen sulphide per 100 standard cubic feet. (Exception. If the gas is not to be placed in pipe or bottle type holders the hydrogen sulphide content may be 0.3 grains per 100 standard cubic feet.)

(2) Utilities supplying gas containing coal or water gas shall make quantitative determinations of total sulphur at least once every 6 months and qualitative hydrogen sulphide tests at intervals of 1 hour to 2 weeks depending upon the probability of this impurity being found.

(3) Utilities supplying liquefied petroleum gas, or liquefied petroleum air mixtures, or natural gas shall test the gas periodically for impurities or periodically obtain data concerning impurities from sources they believe the commission can accept as reliable.

History: Cr. Register, February, 1959, No. 38, eff. 3-1-59.

PSC 134.23 Pressure variation. (1) Every utility supplying gas shall file with the commission a standard service pressure by service areas. The service pressure shall be of such a value that the maximum pressure at any outlet as specified below shall not be greater than 12 inches of water column except for customers utilizing high-pressure service.

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(2) For customers receiving standard service pressure, the gas pressure at the outlet of the utility's service meters shall meet the following requirements:

(a) At no outlet in the service area shall it ever be greater than one and one-fourth of the standard service pressure nor greater than 12 inches of water nor ever be less than one-half of the standard service pressure nor less than 4 inches of water.

(b) At any single outlet it shall never be greater than twice the actual minimum at the same outlet.

(c) At any one outlet the normal variation of pressure shall not be greater than the following:

Minimum Pressure	Normal Variation Permissible
4-5 in. -----	3 in.
5-6 in. -----	3½ in.
6-8 in. -----	4 in.

(3) For customers utilizing gas at high pressure, a service pressure shall be agreed upon by the utility and the customer, and the maximum pressure variation shall not exceed 15% of the agreed pressure unless the commission shall authorize a greater variation.

(4) No utility shall furnish gas to any customer at pressures higher than its filed standard service pressure until it has filed with the commission acceptable service rules governing high-pressure service to customers desiring to utilize gas at pressures higher than standard service pressure. Such service rules shall provide that the utility will make high-pressure service available to its customers upon request whenever high pressure gas is available at the customer's premises or may be made available in accordance with the utility's filed extension rules; and when such high pressure is required for proper operation of the customer's present or proposed utilization equipment.

History: Cr. Register, February, 1959, No. 38, eff. 3-1-59.

PSC 134.25 General use of calorimeter equipment. (1) Unless specifically directed otherwise a calorimeter shall be maintained at each gas producing or mixing plant whether the plant is in continuous operation or used only for standby or peak shaving purposes. The calorimeter shall be used to check the operation of the plant and shall measure the heating value of the gas going to the gas lines.

(2) Unless specifically directed otherwise calorimeters shall be maintained in operation in locations where the heating value of the gas can be measured from each different supplier.

(3) Unless specifically directed otherwise a calorimeter shall be maintained and used to measure the heating value of the gas actually sold to customers in those cases where mixed gases are used.

(4) Tests of heating value of the gas shall be made daily whenever gas is supplied at the calorimeter location unless specifically directed otherwise by the commission. The original records of the tests shall be dated, labeled and kept on file for 6 years. A copy of the daily average

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heating value of gas sold to customers shall be sent the commission each calendar month.

(5) The calorimeter equipment shall be maintained so as to give results within + or - 1%. Recording calorimeters used to test or control the production or mixing of gas or measure the heating value of purchased gas when therm rates are not applicable shall be tested with a gas of known heating value at least 3 times a year or when the accuracy is in question. Recording calorimeters used only with standby or peak shaving production plants shall be tested with a gas of known heating value at least 2 times a year. Non-recording calorimeter equipment such as the Junkers shall be tested with a gas of known heating value at least once a year or tested against another calorimeter of known accuracy at least once a year.

History: Cr. Register, February, 1959, No. 38, eff. 3-1-59; am. (5), Register, January, 1965, No. 109, eff. 2-1-65.

PSC 134.251 Use of recording calorimeter for therm billing. (1) In the application of gas rates based on the therm, a recording calorimeter shall be used to determine the heating value of the gas being distributed to utility customers. These calorimeters will be located as set forth in s. PSC 134.25 (2) and (3). They shall have such accuracy characteristics as to be able to measure the heating value of the gas to within + or - 2 B.t.u., shall be able to reproduce these readings to within + or - 2 B.t.u., and shall be able to hold their accuracy over an extended period of time. The instruments shall be installed in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations.

(2) Each utility selling gas shall file with the commission a complete installation report stating the following information: location of calorimeter, kind of gas tested, type of scale, uniform or split scale range, date installed, publication number of manufacturer's applicable book of instructions, outline of the building, the location of the calorimeter or calorimeters within the building, the size, length, gas pressure, and general route of the gas sample pipe from the supply main to each calorimeter and location of all secondary equipment necessary for the operation of the recording calorimeter.

(3) (a) Each utility selling gas shall keep a chronological record of dates and results of tests and operations performed on the calorimeter to test and maintain accuracy.

(b) Twice every month the following tests shall be made:

1. Two days of each month shall be selected for the performance of an "as found" accuracy test, mechanical tests, adjustments, and an "as left" accuracy test of each recording calorimeter, and thereafter the specified accuracy tests, adjustments, and maintenance work shall be performed on the same days of each month insofar as practicable.

2. In making the accuracy tests on the calorimeter, the utility shall use reference natural gas which has been certified by the Institute of Gas Technology before cleaning parts or making any adjustments to either the tank unit or the recorder mechanism. The change from line gas to the certified gas should be made so as to have a continuous chart recording. The inlet pressure used should be the same for both calibration and subsequent operation.

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3. If the "as found" accuracy test is within $+ \text{ or } - 3 \text{ B.t.u.}$, no adjustment will be required and the instrument may be returned to service. If the "as found" accuracy test is not within $+ \text{ or } - 3 \text{ B.t.u.}$, maintenance shall be performed to restore the accuracy of the instrument.

4. In order that adequate information concerning each cylinder of natural gas which is to be used for the semi-monthly check tests be available at all times, the following information shall be entered on a form or in a log book provided for the purpose and also on a label or tag securely attached to each cylinder in which the gas is stored:

- (a) Institute of Gas Technology Cylinder Number.
- (b) Institute of Gas Technology Certificate Number.
- (c) Date cylinder was certified.
- (d) Date cylinder was received by the utility.
- (e) Heating value certified by Institute of Gas Technology.
- (f) Basis of the heating value in (e) above.
- (g) Heating value to be used in the semi-monthly accuracy tests. This heating value will not include any plus or minus values. For example, if the heating value is $1,000 + \text{ or } - 0.9 \text{ B.t.u. per cubic foot}$, the heating value is $1,000 \text{ B.t.u. per cubic foot}$.
- (h) Basis of the heating value in (g) above.

(5) The original chart records produced by the recording calorimeters shall be dated, labeled, and kept on file for 6 years. A copy of the daily average heating value of gas and the results of the semi-monthly "as found" and "as left" test shall be sent to the commission each calendar month.

History: Cr. Register, January, 1965, No. 109, eff. 2-1-65.

PSC 134.26 Meter testing and testing equipment. (1) Each public utility giving gas service is responsible for the accuracy of equipment used to measure service to its customers and all gas supplied by the utility shall be metered unless specific exemption is obtained from the public service commission. The utility shall own and maintain the equipment and facilities necessary for accurately testing the various types and sizes of meters used by the utility for the measurement of gas, shall make the tests required by these rules, shall maintain the measuring devices, and maintain their accuracy; unless arrangements are made to have the work done by others who have properly equipped laboratories, are approved by the commission and arrangements are also made to have equipment and procedures checked by the public service commission. A test by the manufacturer of a metering device is not acceptable unless witnessed by a utility representative.

(2) Each public utility giving gas service shall own and maintain, except as provided in sub. (1), an industry-approved meter prover of a capacity of not less than 5 cubic feet. The meter prover shall be complete with all accessories needed for accurate meter testing, shall be suitably located for meter testing, and shall be protected from drafts and excessive temperature changes. The equipment shall be maintained in

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good condition and correct adjustment and be capable of determining the accuracy of service meters to within one-half of one per cent. When the meter prover is used to test temperature-compensating meters, there shall be present a temperature-indicating device to accurately determine the temperature of the prover to within $\pm 1^\circ$ Fahrenheit.

(3) Each public utility giving gas service through turbine or rotary displacement type meters shall a) own and maintain, except as provided in sub. (1), a flow or volumetric meter of suitable capacity, together with necessary accessories, and it shall maintain such equipment in proper adjustment so that it will be capable of determining the accuracy of turbine or rotary displacement type meters to within one-half of one percent; or b) have a record of tests of each turbine or rotary displacement type meter made by an acceptable laboratory or by a manufacturer witnessed by a representative of the utility. The record should show that the test included a check of the recording device.

(4) Each public utility giving gas service through orifice type meters shall own and maintain, except as provided in sub. (1), instruments for checking the diameter of the orifice, a water column for testing the pressure differential recorder, and a mercury column or a dead weight gauge tester for testing the static pressure recorder so that the utility will be capable of determining the accuracy of these orifices and recorders to within one-half of one per cent.

(5) All instruments and equipment used for testing of meters shall be maintained in good condition and correct adjustment and be capable of determining the accuracy of service meters to within one-half of one percent and shall be checked at least once each 3 years against a standard.

(6) A rotary displacement type meter, when used as a standard for testing other service meters, shall be given a differential test every 6 months. An original differential test record of the standard meter shall be established and all future differential test results shall be recorded and compared with the original test record. When the test differential pressure differs from the original test record by more than 25% at approximately 25% of the capacity of the meter, the meter shall be cleaned and/or repaired. All associated electrical equipment shall be tested before each series of tests. Associated pressure and temperature correction equipment shall be tested every 6 months.

(7) A diaphragm-type meter shall not be used as a standard for testing other service meters.

History: Cr. Register, February, 1959, No. 38, eff. 3-1-59; am. (2), Register, January, 1966, No. 109, eff. 2-1-66; am. (3) and (5), cr. (6) and (7), Register, April, 1969, No. 160, eff. 5-1-69.

PSC 134.27 Meter accuracies. All meters shall be set as close to 100% accurate as possible. Diaphragm meters shall be considered correct for service if the results of the multiple tests called for agree within 1% and no test shows an error of more than 1% fast or slow. Turbine and rotary displacement type meters shall be considered correct for service when tested at approximately 10% of rated flow with accuracy between 2% slow and 2% fast, and at approximately 100% flow with accuracy between 1% slow and 1% fast and in the case of turbine type meters, have a spin test time equal to or greater than that

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on file with the commission under s. PSC 134.28 (6). In orifice type meters, the deviations in the diameter of the orifice shall not exceed the following:

PRACTICAL TOLERANCES FOR ORIFICE DIAMETERS

Orifice Size	Tolerance Plus or Minus	Orifice Size	Tolerance Plus or Minus
.2500	.0003"	1.2500	.0014"
.3750	.0005"	1.5000	.0017"
.5000	.0006"	1.7500	.0020"
.6250	.0008"	2.000 to 5.000	.0025"
.7500	.0009"	over 5.000	.0005" per inch of diameter
.8750	.0010"		
1.0000	.0012"		

In orifice type meters the sharpness of the orifice edge shall be maintained in such a condition that the upstream edge of the orifice shall not appreciably reflect a beam of light when viewed without magnification. No meter which is mechanically defective shall be placed in service or allowed to remain in service after such defect has been discovered. The inlet and outlet of diaphragm type meters shall be capped when not connected in service.

History: Cr. Register, February, 1959, No. 38, eff. 3-1-59; am. intro par. Register, November, 1962, No. 83, eff. 12-1-62; am. intro par., Register, April, 1969, No. 160, eff. 5-1-69.

PSC 134.28 Meter testing. (1) Each meter test of a diaphragm type meter with a capacity of 2,400 cubic feet per hour or less shall consist of one proving at a rate of flow one-fifth or less of the rated capacity of that meter and one proving at a rate of flow at or greater than the rated capacity of the meter. The capacity of the meter for test purposes shall be the capacity at one-half inch water column differential pressure.

(2) Each meter test of a diaphragm type meter having a capacity greater than 2,400 cubic feet per hour shall consist of one proving at a rate of flow one-fifth or less of the rated capacity of that meter and one proving at a rate of flow not less than 2,500 cubic feet per hour, but not less than twice the minimum test flow. The capacity of the meter for test purposes shall be the capacity at one-half inch water column differential pressure.

(3) Rotary meters shall be tested at 2 loads with the minimum load at 10% of rating by the use of a portable or volumetric meter or other approved proving devices, or be given a differential test. In the latter case an original test record shall be set up immediately after installation; future differential test results shall be recorded and compared with the original test record.

(4) A test of an orifice meter shall consist of tests of the recording gauges, and the removal, inspection and measurement of the orifice.

(5) Temperature-compensated gas displacement meters when tested shall be proved to a base temperature of 60° Fahrenheit.

(6) Turbine-type meters shall be tested at 2 loads with the minimum load at 10% of rating by the use of a portable or volumetric meter or other approved proving devices, or be given a turbine blade, rotor and gear assembly spin test, either by manual or velocity rotation. Before a particular type turbine meter can be used, the manufacturer must file with and be accepted by the commission a minimum coasting time

which will satisfactorily indicate the operating condition of the internal metering mechanism. For the spin test method a test record shall be set up; and the original and subsequent spin test results shall be recorded and compared with the specified minimum coasting time as filed with the commission for that type meter.

History: Cr. Register, February, 1959, No. 38, eff. 3-1-59; am. (3), Register, November, 1962, No. 83, eff. 12-1-62; cr. (6), Register, January, 1965, No. 109, eff. 2-1-65; cr. (6), Register, April, 1969, No. 160, eff. 5-1-69.

PSC 134.29 Installation test. No meter shall be used to meter gas consumption for billing purposes unless it was tested and found correct, as defined in s. PSC 134.27 not longer than 15 months previous to its use. The first test on a meter or a retest after a major overhaul shall include a check of the registering device and linkages.

History: Cr. Register, February, 1959, No. 38, eff. 3-1-59; am. Register, April, 1969, No. 160, eff. 5-1-69.

PSC 134.30 Periodic testing and maintenance. Each utility shall test its meters according to the following schedule except as provided in s. PSC 134.26 (1). Where pressure regulators, volume corrective devices, or other measuring devices are used on the service or used in conjunction with the meters, they shall be tested on the same schedule as the meters.

(1) All diaphragm meters that are measuring dry gas and have non-absorptive type diaphragms or were rediaphragmed since the introduction of dry gas shall be due for removal from service, tested, adjusted, repaired if necessary, and retested if reused, every 144 months if the meter capacity is 2,400 cubic feet per hour or less at $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch water column and every 48 months if the capacity is greater than 2,400 cubic feet. Meters shall be tested during the calendar year in which said 144th or 48th month falls.

(2) All diaphragm meters that are measuring dry gas that do not have non-absorptive-type diaphragms and have not been rediaphragmed since the introduction of dry gas shall be removed from service, tested, adjusted, re-diaphragmed and retested within 48 months of the introduction of dry gas if the meter capacity is 2,400 cubic feet per hour at $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch water column and within 24 months if the capacity is greater than 2,400 cubic feet.

(3) All diaphragm meters that measure other than dry gas shall be removed from service, tested, adjusted, repaired, if necessary, and retested if reused every 96 months if the meter capacity is 2,400 cubic feet per hour or less at $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch water column and every 48 months if the capacity is greater than 2,400 cubic feet.

(4) Rotary meters having a capacity of 15,000 cubic feet per hour or less at 4 oz. water column pressure shall be given a differential test at least once every 48 months and once every 24 months if the capacity is greater than 15,000 cubic feet. When the differential differs from the original test record by more than 50%, the meter shall be cleaned and/or repaired.

(5) Orifice meters shall have their differential and static recording gauges tested at least once each month, the diameter and condition of the orifice checked at least once a year. The specific gravity of the gas shall be checked as required in s. PSC 134.21 (4), and any temperature recording devices tested annually.

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(6) Turbine meters shall be given an inspection and spin test at least once every 12 months. When the coasting time is equal to or less than the specified minimum coasting time as on file with the commission, the meter shall be cleaned and/or repaired.

History: Cr. Register, February, 1959, No. 38, eff. 3-1-59; am. (4), Register, November, 1962, No. 83, eff. 12-1-62; am. (1), Register, January, 1965, No. 109, eff. 2-1-65; am. (4) and cr. (6), Register, April, 1969, No. 160, eff. 5-1-69.

PSC 134.31 Request and referee tests. (1) Each utility furnishing gas service shall make a test of the accuracy of any gas meter upon request of the customer, provided the customer does not request such test more frequently than once in 6 months. A report giving the results of each request test shall be made to the customer and the complete, original record shall be kept on file in the office of the utility.

(2) Any gas meter may be tested by a commission inspector upon written application of the customer. For such test, a fee shall be forwarded to the commission by the customer with the application. The amount of this fee shall be refunded to the customer by the utility if the meter is found to be more than 3% fast. The amount of the fee that is to be remitted for such tests shall be \$2 for each consumption meter that has a rated capacity not exceeding 1,000 cubic feet per hour; for larger consumption meters, demand meters, etc., the test fee shall be the actual expense of the test.

History: Cr. Register, February, 1959, No. 38, eff. 3-1-59.